

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Commander's Policy on Organ and Tissue Donation – 02-15

1. Purpose: To prescribe policies, procedures, and guidelines for planning, implementing, and controlling the Organ and Tissue Donation Referral Program at Walter Reed Army Medical Center (WRAMC).

2. References:

- a. DOD Directive 6465.3, Organ and Tissue Donation
- b. AR 40-3, 28 January 2002, Medical, Dental and Veterinary Care
- c. HQDA Ltr 40-88, Organ and Tissue Donation
- d. Memorandum of Understanding between the Washington Regional Transplant Consortium and WRAMC, dated 29 March 2001
- e. Joint Commission for Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO), Hospital Accreditation Standards (Current Edition)

3. Definitions:

- a. Organs shall be comprised of kidneys, lungs, liver, heart, pancreas and intestine.
- b. Tissue shall be comprised of corneas, skin, bone, bone marrow, dura, blood vessels and fascia.

4. Policies:

- a. It is the policy of WRAMC to comply with Federal and State Laws and Department of Defense Regulations, which mandate that all potential organ and tissue donors be identified and that their next of kin be informed of the option to donate organs and/or tissues. Therefore, all patients who die at WRAMC will be considered potential organ and/or tissue donors.

b. The Washington Regional Transplant Consortium (WRTC) is the federally designated Organ Procurement Organization for the Washington Metropolitan area and is hereby designated as a member of the WRAMC Organ Procurement Team.

c. IAW DOD Directive 6465.3, civilian recovery teams may enter WRAMC to sustain deceased patients and to perform the actual surgical recovery of donated organs and tissues. Upon notification, the WRTC will coordinate a surgical team to perform organ and tissue recovery at WRAMC.

5. Responsibilities:

a. WRAMC Clinicians, Nurses and/or Ward Personnel. Clinicians, nurses, and/or ward personnel will contact WRTC at (703)-641-0100 in the case of any death. IAW with Army Regulation 40-3, Chapter 9, no attempt to obtain consent will be made by WRAMC personnel.

b. WRAMC Casualty Office, Patient Administration Directorate. Upon receipt of the death notification, the Casualty Office, Patient Administration Directorate will assure that the WRTC has been notified of a potential donor. If not, the Casualty Office will be responsible for contacting WRTC at that time.

c. Washington Regional Transplant Consortium.

(1) Upon notification, the WRTC will require a very brief medical history of the patient. If suitable as a donor, the WRTC will evaluate the donor on site at WRAMC and then approach the next of kin to obtain consent for organ and tissue donation.

(2) If consent for donation is received, the WRTC will maintain the donor clinically and coordinate a team to perform organ and tissue recovery at WRAMC. The Chief, Organ Transplant Service, WRAMC, will be notified by the WRTC on all organ recoveries performed at WRAMC.

(3) The WRTC will maintain a list of referrals from WRAMC that will be available to WRAMC upon request. The Chief, Organ Transplant and/or Transplant Coordinators will meet with WRTC Representatives on a quarterly basis to assure compliance with standards.

6. Questions may be addressed to the Chief, Organ Transplant Service at (202)-782-6462.

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Commanding

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